

Existing law provides that persons employed as official court reporters and deputy court reporters of a court of record shall be subject to the certification requirements applicable to certified court reporters. Further provides that the Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters shall determine the qualifications of persons applying to practice as a reporter.

Prior law authorized the board to waive the examination of a person holding an out-of-state certified shorthand reporter certificate who desires to move to this state as a verbatim reporter.

New law retains prior law except it deletes provisions restricting the application of prior law to verbatim reporters, and authorizes the board to waive examination of a person desiring to practice as a certified reporter in this state.

New law provides that persons holding a certification in digital recording or persons employed as a court reporter in certain courts on or before Dec. 31, 2010, shall be certified as long as they remain employed by that court.

New law excludes the following courts: 15th, 16th, 17th, 19th, 32nd, 34th, and 40th JDCs, the Orleans Parish Civil District Court, the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, the Jefferson Parish 1st and 2nd Parish Courts, the New Orleans 1st and 2nd City Courts, the New Orleans Municipal and Traffic Courts, and the 41st JDC (after the effective date of its creation).

Prior law excluded electronic recording equipment, except for stenomasks, for use in the examination for certification.

New law authorizes the use of digital recording equipment for examination purposes.

New law adds digital recording to the eligible methods of court reporting.

New law provides a definition for "practice of digital reporting".

New law further provides that the board may establish and administer an examination for digital reporting and certify applicants in the practice of digital recording after Dec. 31, 2010.

New law provides that no person employed as an official court reporter or deputy official court reporter shall perform duties as a general or freelance reporter, unless certified to do so.

New law provides that the fee assessed for the issuance of a new certificate to a court reporter shall not exceed \$125.

Effective August 15, 2010.

(Amends R.S. 37:2554 and 2556(A); Adds R.S. 37:2555(F) and 2558(A)(4))